

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2287

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: ABC REASONER PROGRAM REGARDING GULF & WESTERN IN DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

1. HAVING NOW VIEWED VIDEO CASSETTE SUBJECT PROGRAM, I
SHARE JUDGEMENT THAT PROGRAM IS DISTORTED AND BIASED AGAINST
GULF & WESTERN. AS I MENTIONED TO YOU, G&W HAS ABC PROMISE OF
EQUAL TIME AND INTENDS TO PRODUCE ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTE FILM
SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT FROM ITS STANDPOINT. TO THAT END,
G&W PLANNING TO USE EXTENSIVE FOOTAGE IT POSSESSES OF PERUVIAN
AUTHOR MARIO VARGAS LLOSA INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER
(VARGAS LLOSA COULD HARDLY BE CHARGED AS BEING DOCTRINALLY IN
FAVOR OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS).

2. REASONER PROGRAM CONTAINS FOLLOWING FALSE ASSERTION THAT
US IMPOSED BALAGUER GOVERNMENT ON DOMINICAN PEOPLE IN 1966:
QUOTE THE MEMORY OF US MARINES COMING ASHORE IN 1965 IS
STILL FRESH IN THE MINDS OF MOST DOMINICANS. WHEN THE MARINES
DEPARTED, THEY LEFT BEHIND JOAQUIN BALAGUER, AN OLD TRUJILLO
HENCHMAN AND, A SHORT TIME LATER, GULF & WESTERNGO GULF & WESTERN
OFFICIALS ARE QUITE RIGHT WHEN THEY SAY THAT WHATEVER BENEFITS THEY
HAVE, THEY GOT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. WHAT
THEY DO NOT ADD, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE DOMINICANS GOT THAT GOVERNMENT
FROM THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE. AS WE AGREED, WE SHOULD NOT
LET THAT STATEMENT GO UNCHALLENGED. FACTS REGARDING OAS SUPERVISED
1966 ELECTION ARE ON FILE IN DEPT. I SUGGEST THAT AS FIRST STEP,
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YOU SHOULD WRITE TO ELTON RULE, PRESIDENT ABC, SETTING RECORD

STRAIGHT ON THIS ONE SPECIFIC POINT AND REQUESTING EQUAL TIME.
AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, RULE IS SAID TO BE DISMAYED OVER REASONER
PROGRAM. ASSUMING RULE AGREES, I THINK YOU SHOULD GO ON CAMERA
AND PRESENT THE FACTS REGARDING THE 1966 ELECTIONS.

3. LAWRENCE LEVINSON, G&W VICE PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN
COORDINATING THE G&W REBUTTAL EFFORT. ALTHOUGH WE OBVIOUSLY
DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR IN ANY WAY TO BE "SPONSORED" BY G&W, YOU
MAY WISH TO CONSIDER TELEPHONING LEVINSON (FORMERLY IN WHITE-
HOUSE DURING JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION) TO ASCERTAIN WHERE G&W
CURRENTLY STANDS.

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